

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 L-01 OES-02 ACDA-10
PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INR-05
INRE-00 IO-06 PRS-01 DODE-00 EUR-08 /067 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4988
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10567

LIMDIS

PARIS - ATTN SCIENCE COUNSELOR FOR NYE

FOLG TELE SENT ACTION DELHI RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOMBAY 1772

LIMDIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM COURTNEY

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: TECH, IN
SUBJIC STRATEGY FOR NYE VISIT

REF: STATE 172366

1. REGRET THESE COMMENTS ON REFTEL HAVE BEEN DELAYED AND ARE SOME-
WHAT HURRIED, BUT REFTEL DID NOT REACH BOMBAY UNTIL MID-MORNING
TODAY.

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2. I SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT DEPARTMENT'S OVERALL APPROACH TO NYE
VISIT, AS OUTLINED REFTEL, IS WELL CONCEIVED. I SGREE THAT WE SHOULD
VIEW THE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT AS AN ESSENTIALLY EDUCATIONAL,
AND AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRING INDIANS UP-TO-DATE ON EVOLUTION
OF OUR NUCLEAR POLICY AND OF THE LEGISLATION RELATING TO IT. IT
WILL ALSO PROVIDE A MOST USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT MISAPPRE-

HENSIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT OUR POLICY WHICH UNFORTUNATELY ABOUND IN BOMBAY. I BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTED APPROACH IS AS VALID FOR BOMBAY AS FOR NEW DELHI, ALTHOUGH HERE THE EMPHASIS WILL NECESSARILY BE ON SUCH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AS FUEL SUPPLY, WASTE HANDLING, AND SAFEGUARDS.

3. RE. PARA. 2 REFTEL, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT SETHNA WILL HAVE A GOOD SELECTION OF HIS SENIOR STAFF PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSIONS WITH NYE AT IAEC ON AFTERNOON OF A 7 5 2. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE WILL BE R. RAMANNA, THE HEAD OF THE BHABA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER, J.C. SHAH, CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY, AND N.K. RAO, DIRECTOR OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX IN HYDERABAD. RAMANNA IS A PARTICULARLY KEY OFFICIAL AS HE IS A FULL MEMBER OF THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION WHICH, OF COURSE, WILL HAVE TO PASS ON ANY PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN INDIA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM. I HAVE NEVER SEEN SETHNA PUSH A POSITION WHICH RAMANNA WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH, AS SETHNA APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT THE TWO SCIENTIFIC MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION MUST BE IN AGREEMENT IF HIS VIEW OF SCIENTIFIC MATTERS IS TO PREVAIL.

4. I BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED PRESENTATION OF POLICY ISSUES OUTLINE D IN PARA. 3 IS EXCELLENT AND I HAVE NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT POINTS A THROUGH E. HOWEVER, I DOUBT THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT AT THIS TIME TO PIN DOWN FOR A LONGER PERIOD THE PM'S STAND REGARDING TESTING. I BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN EFFORT COULD WELL BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SURFACE OPPOSITION WITHIN GOVERNMENT, JUST AS PROGRESS ON SAFEGUARDS ISSUE HAS BEEN MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY POLARIZATION OF OPPOSITION AFTER PRESS TOOK UP ISSUE. MOREOVER I BELIEVE THAT BEST WAY TO PIN DOWN INDIAN POSITIONS AGAINST TESTING FOR LONGER PERIOD IS THROUGH THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF PRACTICAL MEASURES THAT WORK AGAINST TESTING. FOR EXAMPLE, A COMMITMENT ON THEIR PART TO CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL WASTE STORAGE FACILITIES AT TARAPUR WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO TEST AGAIN UNTIL SUCH EXPENDITURES WERE AMORTIZED. GOI WOULD LOOK VERY FOOLISH IF IT WERE TO SPEND SIX TO FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS ON STORAGE WHICH COULDN'T BE COMPLETED FOR 18 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS AND THEN HAVE TARAPUR SHUT DOWN BECAUSE OF A TEST WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT THE STORAGE FACILITIES COULDN'T BE USED. AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN APPROACHING THESE TALKS, WE SHOULD STATE THOSE BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH THE INDIANS HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING CLEARLY BUT SOFTLY, AND PUT OUR EMPHASIS AT THIS TIME ON ISSUES WHERE SOME PROGRESS SEEMS POSSIBLE.

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PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 SSO-00 INR-05 INRE-00

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O R 261316Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10567

LIMDIS

5. REGARDING PARA. 4 OF REFTTEL, CONGEN BELIEVES THAT THE AREA OF FUTURE COOPERATION IN PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAMS, IF INDIA AGREES TO FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS, IS COMPARABLE TO A MINE FIELD THAT SHOULD BE APPROACHED WITH GREAT CAUTION. THERE ARE TWO MAIN REASONS FOR TREADING CAREFULLY. FIRST, THE GOI BELIEVES THAT SIGNATORIES OF THE NPT HAVE GOTTEN ALMOST NOTHING IN THE WAY OF NEW TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, WHICH ARE PROMISED IN THAT DOCUMENT. SECONDLY, INDIA HAS PRETTY MUCH OVERCOME THE SUPPLY PROBLEMS THAT AROSE FROM THE CANADIAN PULL OUT AFTER THEN PNE. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE IAEC IS NOW QUITE CAPABLE OF COMPLETING RAPP II, KALPAKKAM AND NAORA REACTORS ON ITS OWN. WHILE THERE MAY BE FURTHER MINOR DELAYS IN COMPLETING THESE PROJECTS BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO TURN ENTIRELY TO INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION OF IAEC SEEMS COMMITTED TO THIS COURSE. THEREFORE, OFFERING HELP FOR THE COMPLETION OF INDIA'S CURRENT REACTOR POWER PROGRAM WOULD SEEM TO OFFER THE US LITTLE OR NO LEVERAGE. FROM WHAT CONGEN CAN SEE, INDIA IS SEEKING HELP WITH REGARD TO ITS POWER PROGRAM WITH RESPECT TO THE BREEDER REACTOR PHASE OF THIS EFFORT. THEY PERCEIVE THE US TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY BEHIND THE EUROPEANS IN THIS REGARD AND SO OUR PROMISE TO HELP WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE TO THEM. IT WOULD SEEM BEST TO US TO STRESS THAT

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FUTURE HELP WITH THEIR REACTOR PROGRAM MIGHT BE PRESENTED AS BEING DEFINED BY THE OUTCOME OF INFCEP. SINCE THE RESULTS OF INFCEP WILL NOT BE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME, THE PRESENTATION

WOULD NECESSARILY BE SOMEWHAT VAGUE. CONGEN DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT A USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED IN EMPHASIZING POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATION UNTIL WE HAVE SOMETHING SPECIFIC TO OFFER THAT WE KNOW THE INDIANS NEED AND WANT.

6. RE. PARA. 5, CONGEN BELIEVES THAT THE TECHNICAL ISSUES ARE ALL AMENABLE TO DISCUSSION IN BOMBAY, BUT WE URGE CAUTION IN PROMISING SOLUTIONS TO TEM. IAEC FEELS THAT IT SPENT A LOT OF TIME WALTZING DOWN THE GARDEN PATH LAST YEAR IN TRYING TO WORK OUT A BUY-BACK PROPOSITION THAT THEY ALWAYS REGARDED AS SOMEWHAT FAR FETCHED. THEY FEEL THAT TIME DEVOTED TO THIS EFFORT COULD HAVE BEEN SPENT IN PLANNING FOR ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY STORAGE HERE. IT IS BETTER NOT TO RAISE HOPES WITH PROPOSALS UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY STUDIED IN ADVANCE. WE SEE NO HARM IN REMINDING THE INDIANS OF THE CIRUS AND RAPP HEAVY WATER PROBLEMS. THEY KNOW THAT UNTIL THESE MATTERS ARE SETTLED, THERE CAN BE NO DEFINITIVE PROGRESS TOWARD AN ASSURED SUPPLY OF NEW FUEL. IF WE ARE TO GET AGREEMENT THAT SAFEGUARDS WILL CONTINUE AT TARAPUR IN THE EVENT OF CUT OFF IN NEW FUEL SHIPMENTS, THEN WE WILL NEED TO OFFER SOMETHING IN RETURN. PRESUMABLY THIS WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF AN ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL WHICH GIVE THEM A COUPLE OF YEARS TO ARRANGE ALTERNATIVE FUEL SUPPLY OR TIME TO FILL THE GRID GAP WITH CONVENTIONAL POWER.
COURTNEY UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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